



By the King.

## A Proclamation declaring his Maiesties pleasure concerning the dissoluing of the present Conuention of Parliament.



**A**Lbeit the Assembling, Continuing, and Dissoluing of Parliaments be a prerogative so peculiarlye belonging to Our Imperall Crowne, and the times and seasons thereof so absolutelie in Our owne power, that we need not giue account thereof vnto any: yet, according to Our continuall custome, to make Our good Subjects acquainted with the reasons of all Our publike resolutions & actions; we haue thought it expedient at this time to declare, not only Our pleasure and resolution therein, grounded vpon mature deliberation, with the aduice and vniforme consent of Our whole Pringe Councell; but therewith also to note some especiall proceedings moouing Us to this resolution: And that chieflie to this end, that as God, so the world may witnesse with Us, that it was Our intent to haue made this the happiest Parliament, that ever was in Our time: And that the lettes, and impediments thereof being discerned, all misunderstandings and jealousies might bee remooued, and all Our people may know and beleue, that we are as farre from imputing any of those ill accidents, that haue happened in Parliament, to any want or neglect of duty, or good affection towards Us, by them in generall, or by the greater and better number of Parliament men, as we are confident (the true causes discovered) they wilbe far from imputing it to any default in Us; there hauing in the beginning of this late Assemblie passed greater and more infallible tokens of loue and duty from Our Subjects to Us their Soueraigne, and more remarkeable testimonies from Us of Our Princely care and zeale of their welfare, then haue bene in any Parliament met in any former Age.

This Parliament was by Us called, as for making good and profitable Lawes, so more especially, in this time of miserable distraction throughout Christendome, for the better settling of peace and Religion, and restoring Our Children to their ancient and lawfull patrimony, which we attempted to procure by peaceable treaty, at Our owne excessive charge, thereby to saue and prevent the effusion of Christian blood, the miserable effect of warre, and dissen-



tion; yet with full purpose, if that succeeded not, to recover it by the sword; and therefore, as a necessary meanes conducing to those ends, the supply of Our Treasures was to be provided for.

This Parliament beginning in January last, proceeded some moneths with such harmonie betweene Us and Our people, as cannot bee paralleld by any former time: For as the House of Commons at the first, both in the manner of their supplie, and otherwise, shewed greater loue, and more respect then euer any House of Commons did to Us, or (as wee thinke) to any King before Us: So we, vpon all their complaints, haue afforded them such memorabile, and rare examples of Justice, as many ages past cannot shew the like; wherein, that wee preferred the weale of Our people before all particular respects, the things themselves doe sufficiently proue, Our Justice being extended, not onely to persons of ordinary ranke and quality, but euen to the prime Officer of Our Kingdome. And although, after their first Recess at Easter, wee found that they mispent a great deale of time, rather vpon the enlarging of the limmites of their liberties, and diuers other curious, and vnprofitable things, then vpon the framing and proponing of good & profitable Lawes: Yet we gaue them time and scope for their Parliamentary proceedings, and prolonged the Session to an vnusuall length, continuing it vntill the eight and twentieth day of May, before wee signified Our purpose for their Recess; and then wee declared, that we would make a Recession the fourth day of June next following, but onely for a time, and in such maner, as might bee without disturbance to any their businesses in hand, expressing out of Our Grace (though wee needed not) the causes of that Our purpose, which were the season of the yeere, vsually hot, and vnfit for great assemblies, Our progresse approaching, the necessitie wee had to make vse of Our Councell, attending in both houses, both to settle Our waightie affaires of State before wee went, and to attend Us when wee went Our progresse, the disfurnishing of Our ordinary Courts of Justice so many Termes together, the long absence of Iustices of Peace, and Deputy Lieutenants, whose presence was needfull for making and returning of musters, and for subordinate gouernement of the Countrey; and therefore wee appointed to adiourne the Parliament on the fourth day of June, giuing that warning longer then vsuall, that they might set in order their businesses, and prepare their grieuances, which wee promised both to heare and answer before that Recess, for presenting whereof wee appointed them a time. This message graciously intended by Us, was not so well entertained by some, who in a short time dispersed and spred their iealousies vnto others, and thereby occasioned discontentment in the House, for being adiourned without passing of billes, yet made not their addresse to Us, as had beene meet, but desired a conference with the Lords; and at that conference, the nine and twentieth day of May, vnder colour of desiring to petition Us for some further time, to perfect and passe some speciall Billes, were emboldened, not onely to dispute, but to refell all the reasons that we had giuen for the adiournement, which being made knowne vnto Us, wee againe signified Our pleasure to both Houses, that on the fourth day of June the Parliament should rise, but wee would then giue Our Royall assent to such billes, as were or should bee ready and fit to bee then passed, continuing all other businesses in state they were, by a speciall Act to be framed for that purpose.

The Lords with all due tie and respect, submitted to Our resolution, passed the Act, & sent it with speciall recommendation to the house of Commons; but they neither read it, nor proceeded with businesses, but forgetting that the time was Ours & not theirs, continued their discontent, as they pretended, for being so soone dismissed, we (though it were strange to obserue such auersnes for Our resolving vpon such waighty reasons, that wherein we needed not to be measured by any other rule, but Our owne Princely Will) yet were contented to descend from our owne Right, to alter Our resolution, and to continue the Session for a fortnight more, wherein they might perfit such publique Billes, as were esteemed of most importance: for which purpose, we Our selfe came in person vnto the higher house of Parliament, and made offer thereof vnto them, which being, in effect, as much as the Commons had formerly desired, was no sooner offered, but yeelding thanks to Us, the said Commons resolved the same day directly, contrary to their former desire, to refuse it, and to accept Our first Resolution of an adiournement; but attending Us at Greenwich, presented no grieuances: this inconstancie, as we passed by with a gentle admonition; so for the matter of grieuances, as well of England, as Ireland, we promised to take them into Our owne care, though not presented to Us, and really performed the same so far forth, as time, and the aduice of Our Councell of each Kingdome could enable Us, as is witnessed by Our seuerall Proclamations, published in both Realmes, as likewise in granting at the same time those three suites which were pro-



poned vnto Us by the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, at the request, and in the name of both the Houses: But in conclusion the house of Commons making it their choise, wee made a Recess by adiournement of the Parliament, the fourth day of June, though indeed wee must doe them this right, that at the said Recess, taking into their serious consideration the present estate of Our children abroad, and the generall afflicted estate of the true Professors of Religion in forraine parts, they did with one vnanimous consent, in the name of themselves, and the whole body of the Kingdome, make a most dutifull and soleimne protestation, that if Our pious Endeauours, by treatie to procure their peace and safetie, should not take that good effect which was desired, (in the treatie whereof, they humbly besought Us, not to suffer any long delay) then, vpon signification of Our pleasure in Parliament, they would be ready, to the bittermost of their powers, both with liues and fortunes to assist Us, so as that by the diuine helpe of Almighty God, we might be able to doe that by Our sword, which by peaceable courses should not be effected.

But during the time of this long Recess, hauing to Our great charges mediated with the Emperour, by the meanes of Our Embassadour, the Lord Digbie, and hauing found those hopes to fayle, which we had to preuaile by treaty, we in confidence of the Assistance of Our people, thus freely promised and protested in Parliament, did instantly shorten the time of the Recess, which we had before appointed to continue vntill the eighth day of February, and did reassemble Our Parliament, the twentieth day of Nouember last, and made known vnto them the true state and necessity of Our Childrens affayres, declaring Our resolution vnto them, of taking vpon vs the defence of Our Childrens patrimony, by way of Armes, since we could not compasse it by an amicable treaty; and therefore expected the fruit of that their declaration, whereby we were inuited vnto this course: wherein, howbeit we are well satisfied of the good inclination of the most part of Our House of Commons, testified by their ready assent to the speedy payment of a Subsidie, newly to be granted; yet vpon this occasion some particular members of that House tooke such inordinate liberty, not only to treat of Our high Prerogatiues, and of sundry things, that without Our speciall direction were no fit subjects to be treated of in Parliament; but also to speake with lesse respect of forraigne Princes, Our Allies, then were fit for any Subject to doe of any anoynted King, though in enmity and hostility with Us. And when, vpon this occasion, wee bled some reprehension towards those miscarriages, requiring them not to proceed but in such things as were within the capacity of that House, according to the continuall custome of Our predecessours, then by the meanes of some euill affected and discontented persons, such heat and distemper was rayled in the House, that albeit themselves had sued vnto Us for a Session, and for a generall pardon vnto both, which at their earnest suit we assented, yet after this fire kindled, they relected both, and setting apart all businesses of consequence and waight (notwithstanding Our admonition and earnest pressing them to goe on) they either sate as silent, or spent the time in disputing of Priuiledges, descanting vpon the words and syllables of Our Letters and messages, which for better clearing of trueth, and satisfaction of all men, we are about to publish in Print, so soone as possibly we can. And although in Our Answer to their petition, wee gaue them full assurance that wee would bee as carefull of the preservation of their Priuiledges, as of Our owne Royall Prerogative, and in Our explanation after sent vnto them by Our Letters, written to Our Secretary, we told them that wee neuer meant to denie them any lawfull priuiledges that euer that House enioyed in Our predecessours times; and that whatsoener priuiledges or liberties they enioyed by any Law or Statute, should euer bee inuiolable preserved by Us; and we hoped Our posterity would imitate Our footsteps therein; and whatsoener priuiledges they enioyed by long custome, and vnccontrolled and lawfull Presidents, we would likewise be as carefull to preserve them, and transmit the care thereof to Our posterity, confessing Our selues in iustice to bee bound to maintaine them in their Rights, and in grace, that we were rather minded to increas, then infringe any of them, if they should so deserue at Our hands, which might satisfie any reasonable man, that we were farre from violating their priuiledges. And although by Our Letters written to their Speaker, we aduised them to proceed, and make this a Session, to the end, that Our good and louing Subjects might haue some taste, aswell of Our grace and goodnesse towards them, by Our free pardon and good Lawes to be passed, as they had both by the great and vnusuall examples of Justice since this meeting, and the so many eases and comforts giuen vnto them by proclamation.

And although we had giuen order for the pardon to goe on, and that in a more gracious and liberall manner then hath passed in many yeeres before, and signified Our willingness,



that rather then time should bee mispent, they might lay aside the thought of the Subsidie, and goe on with an Act for continuance of Statutes, and the generall Pardon; but all this preuailed not to satisfie them, either for their pretended Priuiledges, or to perswade them to proceed with Bills for the good of themselves, and those that sent them. But as the Session and Pardon were by them well desired at first; so were they as ill reiected at the last; and not withstanding the sinceritie of Our protestations, not to invade their Priuiledges; yet by the perswasion of such as had bene the cause of all these distempers, they fall to carue for themselves, and pretending causelessly to be occasioned thereunto in an vnseasonable houre of the day, and a very thinne House, contrary to their owne Custome in all matters of waight, conclude, and enter a protestation for their liberties, in such ambiguous and generall words, as might serue for future times to invade most of our inseparable Rights and Prerogatives, annexed to Our Imperiall Crowne: whereof not onely in the times of other Our Progenitors, but in the blessed Raigne of Our late Predecessor, that renowned Queene ELIZABETH, we found Our Crowne actually possessed; an vsurpation that the Maiestie of a King can by no meanes endure. By all which may appeare, that howsoeuer in the generall proceedings of that House, there are many footsteppes of louing and well affected due tie to Us: yet some ill tempered spirits, haue sowed tares among the corne, and thereby frustrated the hope of that plentiful and good haruest, which might haue multiplied the wealth and welfare of this whole land; & by their cunning diuersions haue imposed vpon Us a necessitie of discontinuing this present Parliament, without putting vnto it the name or period of a Session. And therefore, whereas the said assembly of Parliament was by Our Commission adourned vntill the eight day of February now next ensuing, we, minding not to continue the same any longer, and therefore not holding it fit to cause the Prelates, Noblemen, and States of this Our Realme, or the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses of the same Parliament to trauaile thereabout, haue thought fit to signifie this Our resolution, with the reasons thereof vnto all Our Subjects, inhabiting in all parts of this Realme, willing and requiring the said Prelates, Noblemen and States, and also the said Knights, Citizens, and Burgeses, and all others, to whom in this case it shall appertaine, that they forbear to attend at the day and place prefixed by the said adiournement, and in so doing, they are and shall be hereby discharged thereof against vs.

And we doe hereby further declare, that the said Conuention of Parliament, neither is, nor after the ceasing and breaking thereof shall be, nor ought to be esteemed, adiudged, or taken to bee, or make any Session of Parliament. And albeit we are at this time enforced to breake off this Conuention of Parliament: yet Our Will and desire is, that all Our Subjects should take notice, for auoyding of all sinister suspitions and iealousies, that Our intent and full resolution is, to gouerne Our people in the same manner, as Our Progenitors and Predecessors, Kings and Queenes of this Realme of best government, haue heretofore done; and that we shall be carefull, both in Our owne person, and by charging Our priue Counsell, Our Judges, and other Our Ministers in their senerall places respectiue, to distribute true Justice & right vnto all Our people; and that we shall bee as glad to lay hold of the first occasion in due and conuenient time, which we hope shall not be long, to call and assemble Our Parliament, with confidence of the true and hearty loue and affection of Our Subjects, as either we, or any of Our Progenitors haue bene at any time heretofore.

Giuen at Our Pallace at Westminster, the sixth day of Ianuary, in the nineteenth yeere of Our Raigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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